

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112877  
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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR CARTER--SECRETARY'S PARTY--FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT HENRY TREWHITT COLUMN BALTIMORE SUN  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, HEADED "WARNING TO U.S. PERCEIVED".

2. AMERICAN SPECIALISTS REGARD THE LATEST SOVIET OUTBURST  
AGAINST CHINA AS BOTH A THREAT TO PEKING AND A WARNING TO  
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

3. THE MESSAGE TO THE UNITED STATES, IN THIS JUDGMENT, IS  
VEILED BUT EMPHATIC: U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WILL SUFFER IF  
THE U.S. RECOGNIZES PEKING, ESPECIALLY IF THE U.S. GOES TO  
ARM CHINA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 112877

3. "THE RUSSIANS DON'T LIKE THE WAY OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS  
GOING," SAYS RAY S. CLINE OF THE GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE FOR  
STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES. "THEY FEEL WE ARE  
BEING TOO FRIENDLY WITH THE CHINESE AND THEY HAVE MADE A  
POLICY DECISION TO PUT US ON NOTICE."

4. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIALIST REGARDS THE PUBLISHED

ATTACK ON CHINA LAST WEEKEND AS A "MILESTONE OF SORTS," MARKING THE SOVIET CONCLUSION THAT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE RIVAL COMMUNIST POWERS AS IMPOSSIBLE. AT BEST, HE EXPECTS NOW A STEADY BEAT OF "THREATENING POLEMICS AGAINST CHINA FROM MOSCOW."

5. AT WORST, HE BELIEVES THE SITUATION COULD DETERIORATE INTO A RENEWAL OF THE CROSSBORDER SKIRMISHES THAT BROUGHT HIGH TENSION BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PEKING IN 1969 AND 1974. WHILE AMERICAN OFFICIALS DO NOT PREDICT DELIBERATE PROVOCATION OF LARGE-SCALE CONFLICT, ONE OF THEM SUGGESTS MOSCOW IS WILLING TO RISK THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE ITS POLITICAL POINT.

6. THE HARSH ATTACK AGAINST CHINA IN PRAVDA, THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, ON SATURDAY SET OFF INTENSE SPECULATION IN THE WEST. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE OFFICIAL PRAVDA COMMENTATOR CHARGED THAT PEKING IS DELIBERATELY PREPARING FOR WAR AGAINST THE WEST AS WELL AS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. MILITARY AID TO CHINA FROM THE WEST, IT ASSERTED, WOULD BE USED TO LAUNCH WORLDWIDE CONFLICT.

7. THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE U.S. MILITARY AID TO CHINA HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDE SPECULATION WITH NO OFFICIAL SUPPORT. BUT PRESIDENT CARTER, LIKE HIS TWO IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS, IS COMMITTED TO SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING.

8. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE VARIED FROM POOR TO THREAT-  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 112877

ENING EVER SINCE THEIR GREAT IDEOLOGICAL AND POLICY RUPTURE IN 1960. THE PRAVDA ARTICLE ENDED A PERIOD, WHICH BEGAN AFTER THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG LAST SEPTEMBER, IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION OPENLY SOUGHT RECONCILIATION.

9. VICTOR LOUIS, AN AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET SPOKESMAN, ISSUED THE INVITATION LAST OCTOBER. CHINA, HE WROTE, WAS BEING OFFERED ITS "LAST CHANCE" TO ADOPT A MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE BEFORE SOVIET LEADERS CAME TO AN UNSPECIFIED "IRREVERSIBLE DECISION."

10. BUT CHINA'S POST-MAO LEADERSHIP SCORNNED THE SOVIET POSITION. IT HAS ACCUSED MOSCOW STEADILY OF SEEKING WORLD DOMINATION.

11. SOME AMERICAN SPECIALISTS CLEARLY WERE TEMPTED TO ASSESS THE PRAVDA ATTACK IN DIRE TERMS. BUT THEY RECALLED THAT IMPLIED DEADLINES HAVE COME AND GONE IN THE PAST WITH LITTLE VISIBLE CHANGE.

12. ONE OFFICIAL CONCEDED THAT HE COULD NOT DIVINE WHAT SOVIET LEADERS WOULD DO, BUT HE ADDED: "I THINK IT MEANS THEY ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING."

13. JUST RAISING THE POLITICAL TEMPERATURE IN ASIA COULD INFLUENCE AMERICAN DECISION-MAKING IN SEVERAL AREAS, INCLUDING THE PACE OF IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, AND OF PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA. THE REACTION IN JAPAN, STRATEGICALLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S., AS SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS DEVELOP WILL ALSO BE BLENDED INTO AMERICAN POLICY.

14. ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHERS MUST HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN MOSCOW, AN AMERICAN SPECIALIST SAID. PAUL ELLO OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SUGGESTED THAT MOSCOW SIMPLY "BECAME CONVINCED THE NEW CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS HERE TO STAY AND DECIDED TO REASSERT LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST MOVE-  
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PAGE 04 STATE 112877

MENT."

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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